

Semanotus sinoauster (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)
Firstly Recorded from Laos

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Abstract *Semanotus sinoauster* GRESSITT is newly recorded and redescribed based on the specimens from northeastern Laos. This is the first representative of the genus *Semanotus* from Indochina.

During the recent field survey on the Phu Pan Mountains of northeastern Laos, I found the unique trails made by a callidine cerambycid beetle under the bark of *Foki-ena hodginsii*. It was surprising since no callidine species associated with conifer have hitherto been recorded from Indochina. According to the size and form of emergence hole, the callidine species in question may have a thick and relatively large body. It was therefore expected that an unknown callidine like a *Semanotus* would be found from the mountains.

This expectation was easily solved. A native collaborator on Ban Saleui at the foot of Phu Pan already collected several living specimens of the callidine species in question early in the spring of this year. They were brought forth to my hands. A comparative examination revealed that the callidine species in question could be determined as *Semanotus sinoauster* that was widely known from the western area of China. In the following lines, I will firstly record it from Indochina with a description including illustration of male genital organ based on the Laotian specimens.

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Semanotus sinoauster GRESSITT, 1951

(Figs. 1 & 2)

Semanotus bifasciatus: CHEN *et al.*, 1958, Econom. Ins. Fauna China, **1**, p. 54, pl. 9, fig. 58.

Semanotus bifasciatus bifasciatus: CHANG, 1969, Quart. J. Chin. For., **2**(4), p. 29, fig. 12; locality record: Taiwan.

Semanotus bifasciatus sinoauster GRESSITT, 1951, Longicornia, **2**, p. 222, pl. 7, fig. 6; type locality: Ta-chulan, NW. Fukien. — HUA, 1982, Check list Longic. Beetl. China, p. 52. — NAKAMURA, MAKIHARA & SAITO, 1992, Check-list Longic.-Beetles Taiwan, p. 46; locality record: Taiwan. — YU, NARA & CHU, 2002, Longicorn Beetles of Taiwan, pp. 44, 95, pl. 13, fig. 9.

Semanotus sinoauster: XIAO, 1983, For. Ins. China, p. 501, fig. 270. — HUA, LI & ZHANG, 1992, Icon. For. Ins. Hunan China, p. 487, fig. 1502. — HUA, 2002, Check List Chinese Insects, **2**, p. 232.



Fig. 1. *Semanotus sinoauster* GRESSITT from Phu Pan (Mts.) of NE Laos; male (left) and female (right).

Body length: 12.5–20 mm in male, 15.5 mm in female.

Body broad and relatively convex among the members of the genus, with stout and thick appendages. Colour black, dark reddish brown in antennae and legs, though the scape and femora are infuscate; mouthparts dark reddish brown, infuscate in palpi and at margins of mandibles; elytra largely yellowish brown in basal 2/5, with two black broad bands near middle and in apical third, the middle black band nearly of the same width as the following yellowish brown band, though the black bands are sometimes more reduced in width, supplemented with an external yellowish spots near apices.

Head a little narrower than the maximum width of pronotum, densely and finely punctured, densely clothed with long dull yellow hairs, with frons nearly twice as wide as length, provided with a fine but distinct median furrow. Antennae stout, slightly exceeding elytral apices in male, flattened and distinctly serrate in segments 5–10, scape 1.2 times as long as segment 3, densely clothed with short yellow hairs.

Pronotum arcuately dilated from just behind apex to apical third which is the

widest and slightly narrower than the humeral width of elytra, then straightly narrowed to basal collar, apex slightly wider than base and clearly emarginate at middle of margin; disc densely clothed with long dull yellow hairs, closely densely punctured, the punctation being extremely fine near base, provided with weakly raised smooth areas arranged as follows: a pair of arcuate stripes behind apical third, with anterior part strongly bent inwards, a pair of small arcuate ones at sides, and a triangular median spot on basal third. Scutellum elongate semicircular, pale pubescent.

Elytra a little more than twice as long as wide, with obtuse humeri, weakly arcuately narrowed to apices which are rounded to suture, densely punctured, the punctation closer on the second black bands, and finer in apical third, clothed with dull yellow pubescence in yellowish areas, and blackish one in black areas, supplementary dull yellow long hairs near scutellum and bases.

Venter of thoraces densely and finely punctured, entirely clothed with long waved dull yellow hairs. Abdomen moderately finely punctured, haired as in thoraces though not so long; anal ventrite strongly transverse and truncate at margin (male), or semicircular and gently emarginate at middle of margin (female).

Legs thick, rather short in length, with hind tibia weakly sinuate and compressed at base.

Tergite 8 wholly rounded and provided with long setae at margin, though broadly truncate on apical margin. Sternite 8 bluntly pointed at sides, truncate on apical margin. Median lobe slightly elongate with truncate apical margin of dorsal plate. Paramere not so thin, hardly approximate near apex, with numerous very long setae at apices.

Specimens examined. 3♂♂, 1♀, Phu Pan (Mts.), 1,700–1,800 m in alt., Ban Saleui, Houaphan Province, NE. Laos, 4–IV–2004; 1♂, same locality, V–2001.

Distribution. China: Shaanxi, Henan, Hubei, Anhui, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan; Taiwan; Laos (new record).

Host plants. *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Cryptomeria fortunei*, *Pinus* sp. Most probably *Fokienia hodginsii* on the Phu Pan Mountains, northeastern Laos.

Notes. Though considered as an independent species by recent authors (XIAO, 1983; HUA, LI & ZHANG, 1992; HUA, 2002), *S. sinoauster* was originally described from Fujian of South East China as a local race of *S. bifasciatus*. Each species has different ranges in east and west of East Asia; namely *S. bifasciatus* is an eastern species and occurs in Northeast China, the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Islands, and *S. sinoauster* may be allopatric from that eastern species, occurring in the range including such westernmost territory as Yunnan. Even though considered independent, it is most probable that the two species have had a common direct ancestor judging from their similarities in external morphology and life history.

Semanotus sinoauster is easily distinguished from *S. bifasciatus* by the broad yellowish basal bands on the elytra, which are almost always enlarged in basal two-thirds, the thick, robust and more or less convex body, especially in the appendages, markedly

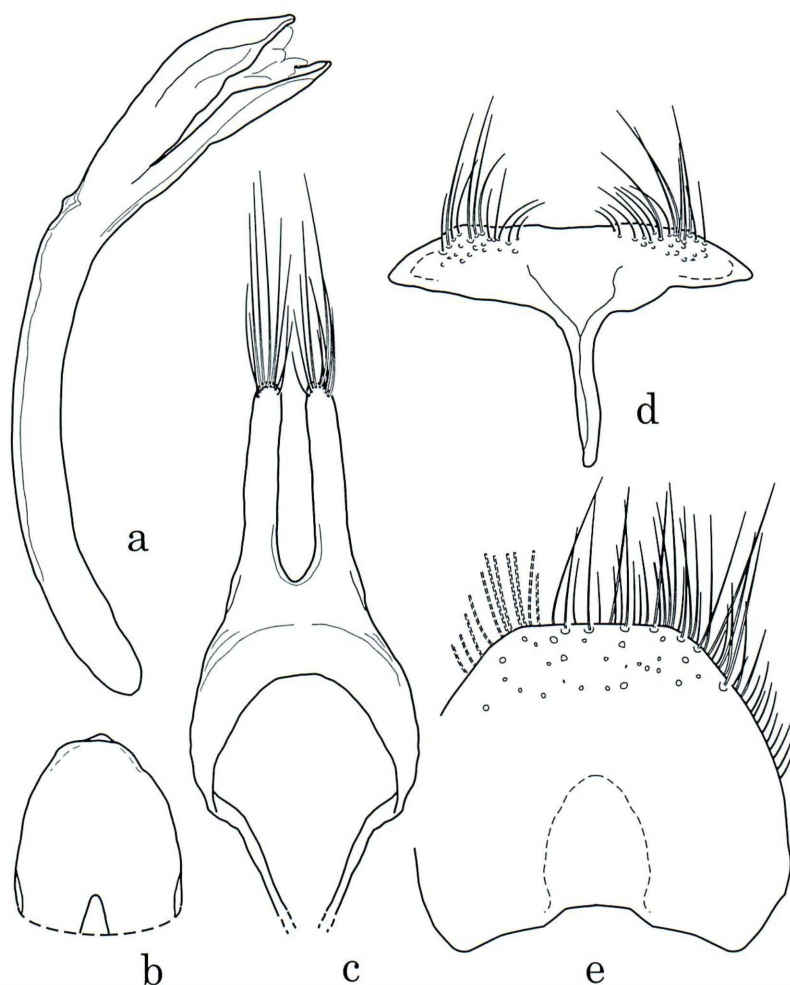


Fig. 2. Male genital organ of *Semanotus sinoauster* GRESSITT from Phu Pan (Mts.) of NE. Laos. — a, Median lobe in lateral view; b, ditto, apical part in dorsal view; c, tegmen; d, sternite 8; e, tergite 8.

long and waved hairs on the ventral surface. Slight differences of male genital organ were observed by the present examination. In *S. sinoauster*, the median lobe is more elongate and the paramere is thicker than those of *S. bifasciatus*.

It was surprising that such a callidine species as *S. sinoauster* was found on an isolated mountain in northeastern Indochina. As was noted in the introduction, the tribe Callidini of the Cerambycinae has so far been unknown from Indochina, and considered as a member of the Northern Hemisphere. The peculiar coleopteran fauna of the Phu Pan Mountains has been revealed by our recent field survey. I recently described a new *Necydalis* species belonging to the subgenus *Necydalisca* which was

previously known from the warm to subfrigid zone in the Northern Hemisphere (NIISATO & OHBAYASHI, 2004, p. 215). The occurrence of *S. sinoauster* on the Phu Pan Mountains is very interesting from the biogeographical point of view just like the existence of the relic conifer, *Fokienia hodginsii*.

要 約

新里達也： *Semanotus sinoauster* のラオスからの記録。 — *Semanotus sinoauster* は、中国南部～南西部および台湾に広く分布するが、これまでにインドシナからは未発見であった。最近のラオス北東部パン山の調査で、ラオスヒノキの新鮮な辺材部にスギカミキリ類の食害痕を確認していたが、時期を前後してその加害主と思われる成虫が現地の協力者によって採集され、本種であることが確かめられた。針葉樹食いのヒラタカミキリ族は、インドシナからこれまで知られておらず、ラオスヒノキの分布とともに、パン山の生物相の遺存的特異性を物語る貴重な資料だといえよう。

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